

Remarks Following a Tour of Wright Manufacturing, Inc., in Frederick, Maryland

January 18, 2008

The President. Let me tell you why I'm here. This man started his own business. He is a manufacturer; he employs over a hundred people; and he represents the backbone of the American economy. And today I talked about our economy, and the fundamentals are strong, but there's uncertainty. And there's a opportunity to work with Congress to pass a progrowth package that'll deal with the uncertainty.

Any package has got to remember that jobs are created by small businesses. A good package will have incentives for investment in it. The package we passed early in my administration helped him. He bought some equipment, made his firm more productive, kept him in business. That's the same spirit that needs to be in this next growth package.

The other thing is, is that we got to make sure that we benefit consumers. We want our consumers out there spending, and the best way to do that is through broad-based tax relief. Now, this plan ought to be broad-based, it ought to be simple, and it ought to be temporary.

I had a conversation with Congressman, with the leadership on both sides of the aisle yesterday, and I was encouraged by what I heard. And I believe we can come together on a growth package very quickly. We're going to need to. We need to get this deal done and get it out and get money in the hands of our consumers and small-business owners to help this economy.

I'm optimistic; I truly am. One reason I'm optimistic is cause I understand we got all kinds of Americans just like this man here, working hard to provide a living for folks and to make a product people want.

And so, while there's some uncertainty right now, if we act quickly and in a smart way that helps growth, we're going to be just fine.

Anyway, thanks for letting me come by. I'm proud to be—I love the entrepreneurial class in America. I love people who have a dream and work hard to achieve the dream.

And so—a fine-looking machine you got here.

Bill Wright. Thank you. It's a team effort. We thank you, thank you for all your work too.

The President. Do you wonder where they got the name "Wright?" That's his name. And his wife is the cofounder of the company. And this is—it's really great to be with you.

And, Congressman, thank you for being here. I'm proud to be with your workers. You've got some fine workers.

Mr. Wright. We've got a great team here, don't we?

The President. Yes, you do. And if they get a little more money in their pocket as a result of the growth package, it'll help make sure this economy continues to grow.

Anyway, thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:55 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Bill Wright, president and chief executive officer, Wright Manufacturing, Inc., and his wife, Margie; and Representative Roscoe G. Bartlett of Maryland.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Terrorists Who Threaten To Disrupt the Middle East Peace Process

January 18, 2008

On January 23, 1995, by Executive Order 12947, the President declared a national emergency pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States constituted by grave acts of violence committed by foreign terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process. On August 20, 1998, by Executive Order 13099, the President modified the Annex to Executive Order 12947 to identify four additional persons, including Usama bin Laden, who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process.

Because these terrorist activities continue to threaten the Middle East peace process and to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy,